

already observed, is liable to be imperfect in this respect in many species.

Temminck, in the 'Fauna Japonica,' makes some observations on the Eared Seals, and shows the inaccuracies of his predecessors. He describes one species, *Otaria stelleri*, and observes that the plate of the entire animal was drawn from a living animal in Japan.

It is very unlike the living animal of the family figured by Forster and that now alive in the Zoological Society's Gardens. The fins look much more as if they were from a stuffed specimen made by a man who never saw a living Sea-bear. He figures the skeleton and three skulls as different ages of the same species, calling one (t. 22. f. 1, 2) from a very old, the second (t. 22. f. 3, 4) from an adult, and the third (t. 22. f. 5, 6) from a middle-aged specimen—I suppose, all from Japan; but I do not see it so stated. The first two have only five upper grinders and very differently shaped heads; the third has six upper grinders and is a *Gypsophoca*. No species has been described from the North Pacific; and it may be a new species yet undiscovered, as all the other species come from the other side of the equator.

I should, judging from the figures, regard them as belonging to two, if not three, distinct species, and the whole theory of their being different ages of the same species as a mistake arising from not studying the growth of the teeth in these animals.

The skeleton of *O. stelleri* (t. 23) is taken from the same specimen as the skull which he says is of a very aged individual (t. 21. f. 1, 2), and is most probably the adult of *Zalophus gillespii*. Skull, figs. 3 and 4, may be the young of the same species; but, unfortunately, the underside is not figured of any of these skulls, so as to show the position of the teeth in connexion with the zygoma; and figures 5 and 6 are evidently *Gypsophoca*, as above stated.

##### 5. Note on *Hyla punctata* and *Hyla rhodoporus*.

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

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*Hyla punctata* was named by Schneider in the year 1799 (Hist. Amph. i. p. 170) and described thus:—

“*Colorem griseum albidum distinguunt puncta nivea, sine ordine sparsa, inter oculos et per totum dorsum; tænia etiam nivea dorsum utrinque cingit, ab oculis ducta supra aures usque ad femora.*”

This characteristic white band, similar to the lateral glandular fold of a *Hylorana*, is also mentioned by all following authors who had really examined examples of this Tree-frog: it is distinctly described and figured by Spix (1825, Spec. Nov. p. 37, tab. 9. fig. 4, *Hyla*

